

# Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

## About the CARES Act and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)

On March 27, 2020 the federal government enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The CARES Act includes a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). A portion of HEERF funds must go directly to eligible students in the form of emergency financial aid grants for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On April 23, 2020, Union Institute & University received \$93,751 in CARES funding for eligible students. It was determined that there were 105 eligible students.

## Eligibility

- Enrollment in a degree-seeking program as an undergraduate student, or as a graduate student with Title IV eligibility [Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Direct Loans]
- Eligible as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen
- A valid Social Security number
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress in their course of study
- Do not owe a refund on grants previously received or in default on any federal student loans
- Eligible students were in courses that had a face-to-face component (regularly scheduled classes, residencies, internships, etc.) at the time of the campus closures. (This included students from Early Childhood, Chad, Maternal Child Health, Master's in Clinical Mental Health, and Ph.D. programs).

## University Specifics

The following information is provided by Union Institute & University as required by the Department of Education in order to comply with the reporting requirements under the CARES Act. This is the College's first 30-day progress report and presents information as of June 24, 2020. Additional reports will be provided every 45 days.

### 1. **Certification and Agreement**

On April 24, 2020, Union Institute & University signed agreement to receive \$187,502 in total CARES Act funds. 50% of that amount must go to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.

## 2. Amounts to be Received

Pursuant to the Certification and Agreement, Union Institute & University received \$187,502 in HEERF Emergency Assistance Grant funds. The College received confirmation of the availability of these funds, and has drawn down the available funds for distribution.

## 3. Amounts Distributed to Date

50% of total funds is to be distributed directly to students. That is \$93,751. As of Monday, September 21, 2020:

- 68 of 105 eligible students have received at least one disbursement for a total of \$47,738.30.
- 55 of 105 eligible students have received a second disbursement for a total of \$41,840.00.
- The total amount of disbursed funds equals \$89,578.30

## 4. Estimated Number of Eligible Students

There were 1573 with ISIRs submitted for 2019/2020 academic year.

Of the 1573 ISIRS, 563 students were enrolled in spring 2019/2020.

There are 105 students eligible for CARES funds.

## 5. Number of Students who have Received HEERF Emergency Grant Funds

There were three disbursements:

- 1<sup>st</sup> disbursement - 68 of the 105 eligible students requested and received funds not to exceed \$800. This totaled \$47,738.30.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> disbursement – Of the original 105 eligible students, 91 were still enrolled in Summer semester. 55 of the 91 students requested and received funds not to exceed \$800. This totaled \$41,840.00.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> disbursement – Of the 55 students who requested funds during the 2<sup>nd</sup> disbursement, 39 remained enrolled in Fall semester. 8 of these students received the funds to fulfill the rest of their 2<sup>nd</sup> request. The remaining 31 students received equal portion as their 3<sup>rd</sup> disbursement. This totaled \$41,728.82.

## 6. Method of Determining Which Students Would Receive HEERF Emergency Grant Funds

Union Institute & University followed the federal guidelines provided above. Financial Aid and Office of Institutional Research have vetted each student to determine who met all criteria.

## **7. Instructions, Directions and Guidance Regarding HEERF Emergency Grant Funds**

Union Institute & University developed a simple online application process for students to apply for the Emergency Assistance Grant funds. Students were sent application with an introduction letter. Only eligible students received the e-mail and application.

### Expectations

Approved application for requested funds (up to \$800) from eligible students are sent to business office for processing each Monday. Students can expect a direct deposit into their bank account the following Friday.

CARES Act student payments are non-taxable.

Union Institute & University cannot directly apply these funds to an outstanding balance on a student's account. The college will disburse funds to students by direct deposit.